

HIGH SIERRA USERS GROUP



BOARD OF DIRECTORS...

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ITALO GAVAZZI (EDITOR).....Tel. 329-9946

MEETINGS...

General meeting and ST SIG--Truckee Meadows Community College--Room 214; SAT. SEPT. 19--10 A.M. EVENING MEETING, STSIG--Pizza Hut--B St. & 22nd St.--Sparks--Sept. 23--7:00 pm

ANNUAL DUES...

ANNUAL DUES are \$15.00. If you see a warning dot or notice on your label, please renew your membership by sending your dues to: HISUG; P. O. BOX 2152; SPARKS, NV. 89432. High Sierra Users Group is an independent organization for Atari Computer users in the Reno area.

NOTE: If you want to see this group continue, to develop its fine program library and to publish this newsletter...THEN PAY YOUR DUES PROMPTLY...Don't take these services for granted. Your dues are our only source of income, and we can't continue without them. SEND YOUR DUES IN NOW!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

TO: HISUG; P.O. BOX 2152; SPARKS, NV. 89432

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
CITY-STATE-ZIP.....
TELEPHONE.....

ARTICLES FOR THE JOURNAL...

Articles for the JOURNAL are always welcome. If you wish to submit them in printed form, please set your printer for a 3-1/2 inch wide column in condensed type face. However, as long as your copy is legible, even handwritten copy is O.K. Articles will be printed as space permits, and according to the editor's judgment of suitability. Letters to the Editor are also welcome. Please send material to: Italo Gavazzi; 825 Wilkinson Ave.; Reno NV 89502 by the tenth of the month for publication during that month.

BULLETIN BOARDS...

As a service to our members, we will be printing a list of bulletin boards as a standard feature in every issue of the Journal. This has been requested. The following list may or may not be up-to-date. If any of these need to be changed, please let me know.

FOR ATARI ST COMPUTERS:

.. 520 ST SYSTEM--363-8111--24 Hrs.--Located in Las Vegas
.. REBEL--453-0786--24 Hrs.
.. COMPUTER WORLD--735-7264--24 Hrs.
.. FALLOUT SHELTER--826-9633--24 Hrs.
.. COLOSSUS--827-5857--5 pm to 8 am
.. BENTLY'S CRYSTAL CASTLE--882-6248--24 Hrs.--1200 Baud Only
.. COLUMBIA BBS--892-8325--10 pm to 6 am
.. THE RENO CONNECTION (TRC)--972-4682--24 Hrs.--300, 1200, 2400 Baud

FOR ATARI 8-BIT COMPUTERS

.. SIERRA EXPRESS--356-1418--24 Hrs.
.. LAIDBACK BBS--786-9518--6 pm to 8 am
.. SPEEDWAY BBS--577-2088--10 pm to 6 am
.. R.A.S.S.--322-8866--24 Hrs.
.. MAGIC MANSION--322-9338--24 Hrs.
.. BEACH HOUSE--358-9554--24 Hrs.

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- .. ICE FACTORY--786-5596--24 Hrs.--300 Baud Only
- .. FALLOUT SHELTER--826-9633--24 Hrs.
- .. COLOSSUS--827-5857--5 pm to 8 am--300 Baud Only
- .. T.O.T.L. BBS--852-6018--24 Hrs.
- .. S.N.A.C.C. #2--876-8062--24 Hrs.
- .. BENTLY'S CRYSTAL CASTLE--882-6428--24 Hrs.--1200 Baud Only
- .. COLUMBIA BBS--882-8325--10 pm to 6 am
- .. THE DUDE--885-0312--24 Hrs.
- .. KONG'S PLACE--885-8090--24 Hrs.--300 Baud Only
- .. RENO CONNECTION (TRC)--972-4682--24 Hrs.--300, 1200, 2400 Baud
- .. SUN VALLEY BBS--972-6691--24 Hrs.--300 Baud Only

All the Bulletin Boards above accept both 300 and 1200 Baud, except as noted. The editor is relying on you modem users out there to report any needed corrections to this list.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

YOUR EDITOR HAS BEEN EDITING THE JOURNAL SINCE JANUARY OF THIS YEAR. AFTER DECEMBER, HE WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO CONTINUE AS YOUR EDITOR. ANYONE WHO WANTS TO TAKE OVER THIS JOB OR TO HELP WITH IT, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH ME AT 329-9946 OR WRITE: ITALO GAVAZZI; 825 WILKINSON AVE; RENO, NV.

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DIRECTORS MEETING...

The Board of Directors, at their latest meeting, set several new policies. The disk libraries will be available at the meetings for copying; there will be a nominal charge for copying disks. An attempt is being made to set the ST SIG meeting during the week rather than on Saturday mornings. There will be no further complimentary advertising in the Journal; all ads will be paid for.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at Italo (Pete) Gavazzi's house at 825 Wilkinson Ave; Reno at 7:00 pm on October 6 (Tuesday). Anyone who is interested in the future direction of HISUG may attend. You do not have to be a member of the Board of Directors to attend.



ATARI 800XL

8 BIT NEWS



Of the articles in the various newsletters this month, two software reviews in the Jersey Atari Computer Group newsletter (JACG) caught my attention.

Accordingly, these are being reproduced as the following articles. They have been edited somewhat.

REVIEW OF FONTMASTER

By Doug Van Hook--JACG

...FONTMASTER will run on any 8-bit Atari with at least 48K. It was written in ACTION by Mike Fulton, of Cypress, California. In the documentation, he does offer to provide continued support for the program and requests a small donation.

This superb program was designed to print out files, Atariwriter included, in any of 28 styles of font. It will also print all of the graphic characters. Another bonus is the ability to print SYNCALC Spreadsheets sideways using ANY of the available character sets. FONTMASTER provides 28 different character sets to choose from, and prints at either 960 dots per line, or at 1920 dots per line.

To use the program, I simply (a) loaded it, (b) asked for a directory, (c) loaded the font called "Cursive", and (d) printed the file called README.DOC. What could be easier than that?

The author claimed that the fonts could be used with other programs, so I immediately loaded TYPESETTER and successfully loaded all but one of the character sets to the screen--27 out of 28 ain't bad!

...Move over DAISY DOTS, I think we've got you now. Here are the menu selections for FONTMASTER:

- 1 Print Text File
- 2 Line Width (characters per line)
- 3 Load Character Set
- 4 Change Character Set
- 5 Top/Bottom Margins
- S Sideways Syncalc Print
- D Dots per Line (Printer Resolution)
- P Change Printer (Epson FX/Gemini)
- M Disk Directory
- Q Quit Program

Font Master is available for \$3.00 this month as the disk-of-the-month from the Jersey Atari Computer Group. To order by mail, write to: Bret Callegari; 306 Division St.--Floor 2; Boonton, NJ 07005.

REVIEW OF SNAPSHOT

By N. Van Oost, Jr.--JACG

Now that I have your attention, I want to tell you about the greatest printer picture dump program that I have ever come across. It was written by Richard Q. Fox for

(See Page 3)

Joy Fox Productions. If you are into collecting pictures, anything by Joy Fox is right up there on top of your collecting list. If you own an Okimate 10, Epson, or Epson-compatible printer (it works super-great with a Star Micronics SG-10 or NX-10), then this is the printer dump program for you.

SNAPSHOT has five main features: (1) 50 colors on the Okimate 10, and true grey scale on Epson and Epson compatibles. (2) Picture translation from one mode to another. (3) The ability to change colors for printout purposes by means of joystick or touch tablet. (4) Prints in normal or double density on Epson or Epson compatibles (SG-10 or NX-10). (5) Some DOS file functions.

SNAPSHOT will load, translate and print pictures from Computereyes, Fun With Art, Graphics Master, Micro-Illustrator, Micro Painter, and Versawriter. It runs under Basic, and the author states "...written in Assembly and glued together with BASIC."

You will like the easy to use menu, which gives you a choice of seven options. They are File Directory, Load, Save, Delete File, Change Color, Translate and Printout. I particularly liked the menu overlay technique used, which I'll let you discover for yourself.

If you have Computereyes or collect Graphics 9 (16 shade) pictures, high contrast Graphics 7.5 pictures, low contrast Graphics 7.5 pictures, normal Graphics 8 pictures, four-shade or eight-shade Graphics 8 pictures--you will be amazed at the true screen-to-printer copy.

About the only other thing I can say in praise of SNAPSHOT is: What you see on the screen is what you get on the paper. So what are you waiting for? Hurry out and buy a copy of SNAPSHOT!

For further information on this program, contact: Joy Fox Productions; 1364 Campbell St.; Orlando, FL 32806.

STRONGER POWER SUPPLY

(The following article appeared in the August 1987 issue of the Puget Sound Atari News. It was reprinted in turn from the January 1986 issue of STATUS via ACE). It is included in the Journal just in case you ever have need of replacing your power supply. It appears to be a superior design to that of the original power supply which came with your 8-bit computer.

Using the circuit diagram (see Figure 1) and following the construction notes which follow, you can have a "beefy" power supply which will handle any demand the 800XL can place on it. And yes, it will indeed power a RamDisk modification. As an added feature, I've included surge protection with the power supply.

The heart of this power supply is a LM323K +5 volt regulator IC. With the proper heat sink, the regulator can provide up to 3 amps to your computer. The 800XL requires less than 1.5 amps, and the 130XE requires less than 2 amps. So with a 3 amp rating this regulator is ideal for the power supply.

For connecting to your computer, you may purchase a 7-pin "DIN" connector or you may cut the cable from your old supply. If you look at the diagram (see Figure 3), you'll see pins 1, 4, and 6 are the +5 volt output. Pins 3, 5, and 7 are the ground connections. With an Ohmmeter, find the wire which you cut connecting to pins 1, 4, and 6 and tag it with "+5" for future use. The other wire is the ground, and it connects to pins 3, 5, and 7. Follow the schematic (see Figure 1) and wire your project carefully. Observe the polarity of the electrolytic capacitors and study the pin-out configuration of the LM323K (see Figure 2) before making the connections.

Connect the Metal Oxide Varistor (as shown in the diagram) for surge protection. Connect the black and white wires of the line cord to the input of the transformer. A fuse holder should be wired to one of the inputs of the transformer. The green wire (if you are using a three wire cord) should be connected to the metal case of the transformer.

One final construction note. The LM323K must be mounted on a heat sink. I chose a plastic project case with a metal top (see Parts List) and mounted the LM323K to the metal top with heat sink compound. As an option, you can mount the regulator on a heat sink designed for a "TO-3" transistor case. I also recommend a TO-3 socket for the regulator for easy installation and removal.

Before connecting the power supply to your computer, power up your unit and check for +5 volts at the output. If all seems well, then try your computer. If you notice any "ripple" on the screen, then recheck all your solder connections. It may be necessary to connect the case of the 12 volt transformer to ground. In extreme cases, you may have to shield the entire transformer with a piece of metal connected to ground.

PARTS LIST

T1--12 Volt transformer (Radio Shack 273-1352 or equivalent)
BR1--Bridge rectifier (RS 276-1146 or equiv.)
IC1--LM323K (available at local electronics suppliers)
C1--2200 mfd electrolytic capacitor (RS 272-1020 or equiv.)
C2--1.0 mfd capacitor (RS 272-1050 or equiv.)
C3--10 mfd electrolytic capacitor (RS 272-1013 or equiv.)
MOV--Metal Oxide Varistor (RS 276-571 or equiv.)
Misc.--Project enclosure (RS 270-232 or equiv.)
Fuse Holder

(See Back Page for Circuit Diagram)

ST SIG

Chairman: Henn Johnson 673-1690
 Librarian: Maynard Smith 916-583-4332

ST RAMBLING

KENN JOHNSON

RAMBLE (ram'bel) To write or talk aimlessly or without sequence of ideas

I am sure that you have noticed the difference in our newsletter. Publishing Partner was used for layout and the printing was done on a HP Laser Jet courtesy of Cimarron Computer. This is a superb program and has great potential. Manufacturer support is in a word 'fantastic'. I will have a demonstration at this month's meeting.

Since taking over the duties of ST SIG chairman, my computer is no longer mine. It belongs to the user group in spirit if not in substance. My time is spent working up demos, downloading from BBS's, and most of all word processing. I grope through a half meg of text every month looking for that item to make the meeting and/or newsletter interesting and informative, for example the ROM info in this issue. So with all this word processing came problems, pre-eminent was memory. Alert boxes telling me 'You are almost out of memory' exasperated me. Just what I did not need in the middle of a cut and paste routine. When I bought my ST, it never occurred to me that someday 512K would not be enough; 'Look into my crystal ball sayeth the Gypsy Lady.' The decision forced on me, now I had to find the right upgrade for the right price. It couldn't be piggy backed memory ala Eye Bee Em, that's just asking for trouble. I didn't want to do any soldering on the mother board because rumor has it that the blitter upgrade will be a board swap. So all I had left was the plug in kind of which only a few exist. I settled on a board from Tech Specialties of Houston, TX for several reasons. First the price was right, \$180 retail but bought cheaper. Second, the 512K of ram on board is able to be tossed when the megabyte chips get down to a reasonable price (read cheap) and expanded to 2.5 or 4 meg. Third, installing it, though not a snap, was relatively easy. The usual amount of care was taken for static electricity, and proper alignment of pins. If you're not a hacker and don't want to see the guts of your ST, I'm certain one of the dealers will gladly get one and install it for you. Do I have any problems with it you ask? Not with the board, but the documentation stinks, in size, quantity, and quality. Anyway, no more out of memory messages and according to that lady's crystal entertainment center, I'll never have the need for more than one meg.

Michtron has announced some new goodies for release in the next month or so. One of note is the Weide Math Coprocessor that fits into the 520 or 1040. It's lists for a hefty 499.95 but if it uses a 68881, the price is reasonable because the chip also carries a hefty price (\$200).

ATARI USA president Jerry Brown is already out and Jack T has again taken over the reins. Does that mean something to us? Probably not!

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MORE ON DATA MANAGER ST

SYD ALLEN

Lisa from Timeworks called me, and was very helpful. I had already cleared stylistic codes from DMST files in 1ST WORD by simply rubber-banding everything, turning off all styles, and restyling to plain. Don't know why it wasn't that easy at first. The program has many features which take trying and rereading, trying and rereading...

Yes, improvements needed, but this is almost the first version. They will notify all owners for the update, late this year or early next. The only true block to my using the program Lisa explained as a GEM bug: in any program that uses GEM, the top margin setting must not be zero--- it must be '1' or more if you place anything on the top line, including headers in a report and the first line of an address label. I confirmed this bug with 1ST WORD and A-CALC PRIME. She said a GEM upgrade is expected, and I said don't hold your breath for Atari, and she said they are good compared to Commodore...

For mailing lists, I can get 3 to 5 lines by including the state in the 3rd through 5th line (whichever it falls in naturally), and having Zip as a separate field following each of those 3 lines. Zip will be the only concatenated (closes to left on printing) field as the program cannot seem to do two on the same line. So state cannot be sorted; only both names and Zip. Also, Zip will be in piles according to number of label lines...

Yet I've decided the program is now worth having. The multiple sort is great: in each next sort it simply subsorts upon the previous one, without rearranging any sort that has already been done, etc. The Calculation Entry and Edit box includes some math, logical operators and IF THEN ELSE, but haven't tried this yet. No independent cell concept as in a spreadsheet. The graphics ability looks good, but I can't use it because we have a Toshiba. ...Lisa says Timeworks is very busy but is planning for more printer drivers in all ST programs. Also, they are coming out with their own desktop publishing program for the ST.

[Syd Allen]

IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Kenn Johnson

I received a letter from Ralph Walden the author of DCOPY reviewed in last month's column. He brought to my attention that for those of you wishing to use the file selectory boxes, just give DCOPY a .PRG extension. On the problem with the print command there is a way around it and I'll let him explain. "After using the <T> command to 'type' the file, use the <S> to save the

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FLASH: ATARI CORP. has made an offer of \$67 million to buy FEDERATED ELECTRONICS STORES. FES has 66 stores in the west and sells consumer electronics i.e. VCR's, TV's, Stereo, CD's, and MIDI. FES lost \$5.2 million on sales of \$459 million last year.

The following comes courtesy of ATARI's Neil Harris via GENie:

TOS ROMS -- BLITTER VERSION

The 1987 revision of TOS is scheduled for release in conjunction with the new "blitter" chip. The new TOS has been upgraded to include support for the hardware blit as well as retaining the software blit functions for full compatibility with older software which relies on hardware timing (a definite no-no).

Changes in the new ROMs are:

RS232: The RS232 handler has been completely rewritten. RTS/CTS handshaking now works. Baud rates 50 and 75 now work.

CLOCK: Support is now included for the Mega ST's built-in, battery-backed-up realtime clock. The realtime clock is automatically used by the XBIOS gettime and setttime functions for the IKBD. The GEMDOS clock is reset from the realtime clock at the termination of every program.

STARTUP: Memory clear at system startup is much faster, improving performance on multi-megabyte systems.

DESKTOP: The desktop now includes a control for deactivating/activating the blitter chip. Also, the Save Desktop and Print Screen selections will request confirmation. Spurious characters are no longer written to the DESKTOP.INF file. Doing a PRINT or SHOW from the desktop will now display characters with ASCII codes above 127. SHOW and PRINT use a larger buffer now. Single drive copies now require fewer disk swaps.

CART: Cartridge handling has been revised, eliminating the need for "CARTSTART" code and allowing .TOS and .TTP programs. Lower case letters will now be accepted and passed to an application from the "Open Application ... Parameter" box.

AES: The AES will now send repeat clicks if the mouse button is held down on the arrow or page controls of a window, which lets a window smooth scroll. The AES underscore bug is now fixed. APPL_TPLAY and APPL_TRECORD now work. The limit of 30 characters on a line in an alert box is now rigidly enforced.

MOUSE: The mouse redraw can now be set to XOR mode. The system will return after a single click if this is what was requested.

DMA: The DMA bus can now have more than one device attached at powerup time, without any special software.

FLOPPY: The floppy read/write code checks for more errors now. In prior versions, the system would not report a CRC error under certain circumstances; now it will. This hurts some copy protection schemes. The format of the floppy disk has been skewed from track to track to improve disk speed; the XBIOS supports this by using -1 for the skew value and placing a pointer to a one word per sector skew table in the previously unused longword.

VDI: The VDI will now draw arcs with small angles.

BIOS: Character out routines are much faster.

BLITTER: Automatic blitter chip support is included in line-A and VDI calls. The extended inquire will report a larger performance factor than before, allowing applications to check for the presence of the blitter. A new XBIOS call has been added to check for the blitter and to activate or deactivate it. The blit is not reentrant -- line-A and VDI should not be called from within an interrupt.

REGISTER: The registers D0, D1, D2, A0, A1, A2 have always been forfeit when a trap call was made. Now the demise of these occurs under more conditions than before.

MEMORY: Slightly more RAM is used by the system. Programs that were close to the edge on a 520ST may no longer fit.

VARIABLE: Most undocumented system variables have been moved. You were warned!

NOTES AND WARNINGS:

1. Some programs depend on the OS always being at \$FC0000. This is *not* cast in stone and will probably change soon. To find the OS header, use the pointer "sysbase" as documented.

2. The 4 megabyte ST puts the screen near the end of accessible RAM. Sloppy programs that have been writing past the end of the screen will give bus errors if they do so on the 4 meg ST.

ST RAMBLING CONT.

In the 'Oh NO! Not More' column we have MICROPRO suing MICROPROSE for having a name to close to theirs. I wonder if they will sue INTEL for naming their idea the MICROPROCESSOR. Or maybe we will have IBM suing CP/M and they in turn will sue M&M. Enough is enough, who cares if a name is close or a product has the same 'look and feel'. How about eliminating lawyers and either put more time into new products or dropping the prices on existing ones.

ATARI has announced the prices of the MEGA's (subject to change). Mega ST2 \$1699 Mono or \$1899 RGB and MEGA ST4 \$2399 Mono and \$2599 RGB. Interestingly, in this issue of Computer Shopper there are ads for HP Laser Printers for under \$1900. These are complete units and not the stripped down version ATARI is touting for \$1500. Quick to announce and slow to market may really hurt them.

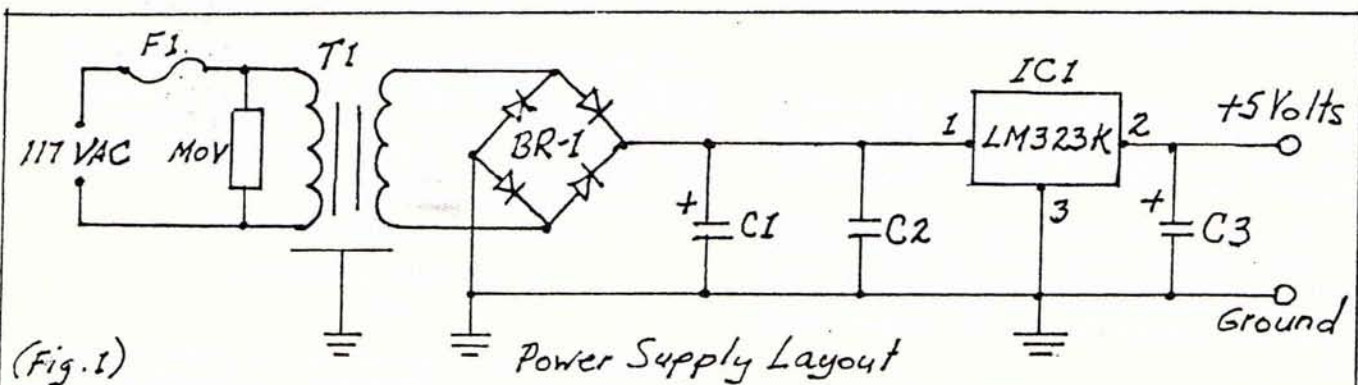
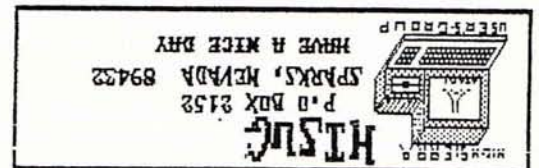
IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN cont.

file, and enter <P> as the filename. The next version will accept -P, P, or P: as this version should have." So there you are, the answers to an excellent program - enjoy it.

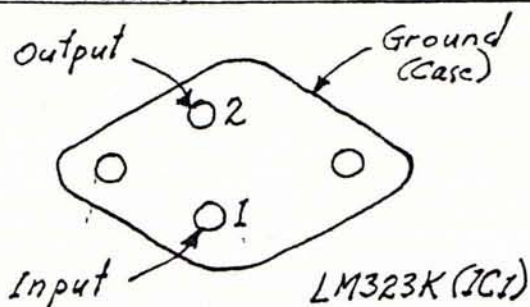
For you gamers, in our library we have STONEAGE DELUXE. Similar to BOULDERDASH, it is a game of logic. You try to get Poor Willi thru the mazes to eat all the cabbages using your joystick. It is a slick game that allows you to pick your maze, level of difficulty, and how hard to make it. It even offers you practice sessions. You will find it under the name STONEDLX. If your ambitions run to arcade shoot-em-up, we have those also. TRIFIDES is a version of GALAGA. Running in low resolution, the speed of play and graphics are very good. It also plays with a joystick. I find it a tough game, but playing against my nephews, they make every game I play tough.

That's this months sampling of what is available in our ST Library. If you wish any of these, drop by a meeting. <Kenn>

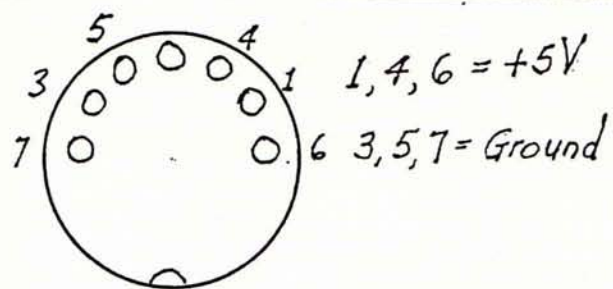
EXC
SAN LEANDRO, CA 94577
PO BOX 1506
SAN LEANDRO COMP. CLUB



(Fig. 1)



(Fig. 2)



(Fig. 3)

Power Supply Diagrams (See Page 3 for Description)